

Starkloff Disability Institute



In this Season of Giving, please consider a gift to the Starkloff Disability Institute.

The Starkloff Disability Institute is **redefining independence** and creating a better world for all people, including Ann. Here is her story:

Ann worked as a nurse prior to losing her sight and her career to an illness that left her blind. She sought help from Rehabilitation Services for the Blind to regain a measure of independence and learn to use a service dog. After working for several years in a medical environment doing paperwork, she returned to a helping profession as a counselor at Rehabilitation Services. In that role, she sent clients to the Starkloff Disability Institute to prepare them for employment. This involvement encouraged her to look at her own goals. Ann still saw herself as a nurse, and her interaction with SDI empowered her to consider a return to the work she loved. She was hired by Centene to assess the needs of Medicaid-eligible clients. Because Centene was comfortable hiring a qualified person who is blind, Ann is now a nurse, helping people access the services they need and demonstrating that people with disabilities can do the job.

Ann's story demonstrates the impact of **The Next Big Step**, a program at the Starkloff Disability Institute that connects qualified job seekers with disabilities with companies committed to hiring them. It shows that disability can be a major impediment to employment—even in the minds of people with disabilities. Ann had trained for nursing, she had a successful career as a nurse, she loved the work, yet she assumed that disability closed off that career. Is it any wonder that the HR personnel who hire nurses do not consider people with disabilities when they look at the labor pool?

With support from friends like you, the Starkloff Disability Institute (SDI), completing its tenth year as a nonprofit, is prepared to help corporations tap into a labor source that is often overlooked and to put people with disabilities to work in competitive positions. SDI works to create communities that welcome people with disabilities because it is good business to do so.

Other programs at SDI also help members of the St. Louis community view people with disabilities as co-workers, neighbors and friends—as people like themselves, with expectations like their own. We work to educate students pursuing careers in the area of disability and to keep the public informed about issues related to living with disability. We are committed to sharing our founder's vision of a world that is diverse and inclusive.

As each of us looks to the new year, it is a good time to reflect on the world we live in and the vision that sustains us, and it's a good time to consider a gift to Starkloff Disability

Institute where, with your help, we are **redefining independence** for people with disabilities and creating a better world for all people.

With our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

Colleen Kelly Starkloff
Co-Director

David J. Newburger
Co-Director

**Donate Now
Online**



Starkloff Disability Institute

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Celebrating 10 years
10
2003-2013

Co-Directors: David J. Newburger and Colleen Kelly Starkloff

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